6. NHB will start a housing scheme for small towns and it will provide for loans at reduced interest rate for small borrowers.

7. Tax free municipal bonds to a limited anount will be permitted.

(d) to (e) In the liberalized economic scenario interest rates on housing loans have been deregulated and are largely dependent on the general interest rate trends in the economy. However, National Housing Bank extends refinance in respect of housing loans in slabs upto Rs. 50,000/- at lower rates (10% in rural and 11% in urban areas) by way of cross subsidizing the same and Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) under this Ministry has launched its scheme entitled "HUDCO Niwas" in March 99 to provide direct loans to individuals for house construction. The interest rates have been reduced twice and are below market rates. HUDCO has offered certain other incentives to make these loans cheeper and more attractive.

Employment Opportunities in Urban Areas

631. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are schemes which are implemented jointly with State Governments/NGOs to improve the employment opportunities in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith norms applied therein; and

(c) if not, whether Government have any proposal to have such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) The Ministry is implementing Swarna Jyanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), a Centrally sponsored scheme, in all urban towns in India, which seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor living below poverty line by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures or provisions of wage employment. The Yojana is funded on a 75:25

basis between the Centre and the States and implemented through the State Governments.

(b) The details of the scheme may kindly be seen in the annexed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

Introduction:

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) shall seek to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. This programme will rely on creation of suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme shall be through the medium of urban local bodies and such community structures.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana shall be funded on a 75:25 basis between the Centre and the States.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana shall consist of two special schemes, namely:

(i) The Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

(ii) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

The Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

This programme will have three components:

(i) Assistance to individual urban poor beneficiaries for setting up gainful self employment ventures.

(ii) Assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self employment ventures. This sub-scheme may be called "The scheme for Development of Women and Children in the Urban Areas (DWCUA)".

(iii) Training of beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and other persons associated with the urban employment programme for upgradation and acquisition of vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

Coverage:

(i) The programme will be applicable to all urban towns in India.

(ii) The programme will be implemented on a whole town basis with special emphasis on urban poor clusters.

Target Groups:

(i) The programme shall target the urban poor, defined as those living below the urban poverty line, as defined from time to time.

(ii) Special attention will be given to women, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes, disabled persons and other such categories as may be indicated by the Government from time to time. The percentage of women beneficiaries under this programme shall not be less then 30%. SCs and STs must be benefited at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the local population. A provision of 3% shall be reserved for the disabled under this programme.

(iii) There will be no minimum educational qualification for beneficiaries under this programme. However, this scheme shall not apply to beneficiaries educated beyond the IXth standard.

(iv) A house-to-house survey for identification of genuine beneficiaries will be done. Non-economic parameters will also be applied to identify the urban poor in addition to the economic criteria of the urban poverty line.

(v) All other conditions being equal, women beneficiaries belonging to women-headed households, *viz.* widows, divor-

cees, single women of even households where women are the sole earners shall be ranked higher in priority.

Self-Employment Through Setting up Micro-Enterprises and Skill Development:

This programme encourages under-employed and unemployed urban youth to set up small enterprises. Under this scheme, the maximum unit cost will be Rs. 50,000 and the maximum allowable subsidy will be 15% of the project cost, subject to a limit of Rs. 7500. The beneficiary is required to contribute 5% of the project cost as margin money. In case a number of beneficiaries decide to jointly set up a project, the project cost will be simple sum of individual project cost allowable per beneficiary and the subsidy will be equal to the total permitted subsidy per person.

Further there is a training and infrastructure support component in this scheme for providing training in a variety of service and manufacturing trades as well as in local skills and local crafts and allied support to beneficiaries. The unit cost allowed for training will be Rs. 2000 per trainee, including material cost, trainers' fees, other miscellaneous expenses and the monthly stipend to the trainee. The total training period for skill upgradation may vary from two to six months, subject to a minimum of 300 hours.

After completion of training successfully, tool kits worth about Rs. 600/- will be provided to the beneficiaries and the exceeding amount being met from funds other than this programmes funds or even as beneficiary's contribution.

Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA):

DWCUA aims at helping groups of urban poor women in taking up self-employment ventures. The group should consist of at least 10

women. The ceiling of subsidy under the scheme is Rs. 1.25 lakh or 50% of the cost of project whichever is less. Where the group sets itself up as a Thrift and Credit Society, in addition to its self employment venture, it will be eligible for an additional grant of Rs. 25,000 as revolving fund at the rate of Rs. 1000 maximum per member. The fund is meant for purposes like purchases of raw matterials and marketing, infrastructure support, one time expenses on child care activity, expenses upto Rs. 500 on travel cost of group members to bank, payment of insurance premium for self/spouse/ child by maintaining savings for different periods by a member and any other expense allowed by the State in Group's interest. The revolving fund can be availed by a group only after one year of its formation.

The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP):

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), launched on 1.12.1997 seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through encouraging employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis between the Centre and the States. The Scheme shall consist of two special schemes, namely:—

(A) The Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

(B) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP):

This programme shall seek to provide wage employment to beneficiaries living below the poverty line within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

This programme shall apply to urban local bodies, the population of which was less than 5 lakhs as per the 1991 Census.

The material labour ratio for works under this programme shall be maintained at 60:40. The prevailing minimum wage rate, as notified from time to time for each area, shall be paid to beneficiaries under this programme.

There will be no restrictions of educational qualifications whatsoever for the beneficiaries.

Method of Implementation:

Community Development Societies (CDSs) shall survey and draw up a list of available basic minimum services in their areas. Missing basic minimum services shall be first identified. Other requirements of physical infrastructure shall be listed thereafter. The term "basic minimum services" above shall carry the same connotation as is carried under the scheme of EIUS.

The CDSs shall priorities the above services into two lists "A" and "B". This prioritization shall be final and not subject to change and modification by any other agency. List 'A' will be the order of priority for the missing minimum services whereas List 'B' shall be the order of priority for other required infrastructure. These lists along with the remarks of the CDSs with respect to where such services should be located etc. shall be forwarded to the Town Poverty Eradication Cell at the begining of the year.

Project Administration:

At the community level a Community organiser shall be appointed for about 2000 identified families. Such Community Organiser should, as far as practicable, be a women. She should be a full time functionary either recruited, of taken on deputation from some Government department/ULB or employed on a contract basis.